

Motatapu Valley

Where the Motatapu River emerges from its narrow ravine to flow past gentle river flats, some of Wanaka's favourite climbing destinations can be found. These include Riverside, Al Cove and Roadside Attraction. The river itself is a refreshing diversion from climbing on sultry afternoons when a cool dip is more appealing than a hot flash.

📷 Zac Keegan ambulatory on *Anti Walk Device* (23)

Main Wall, Riverside. ROUTE 12, PAGE 137.

JOHN PALMER

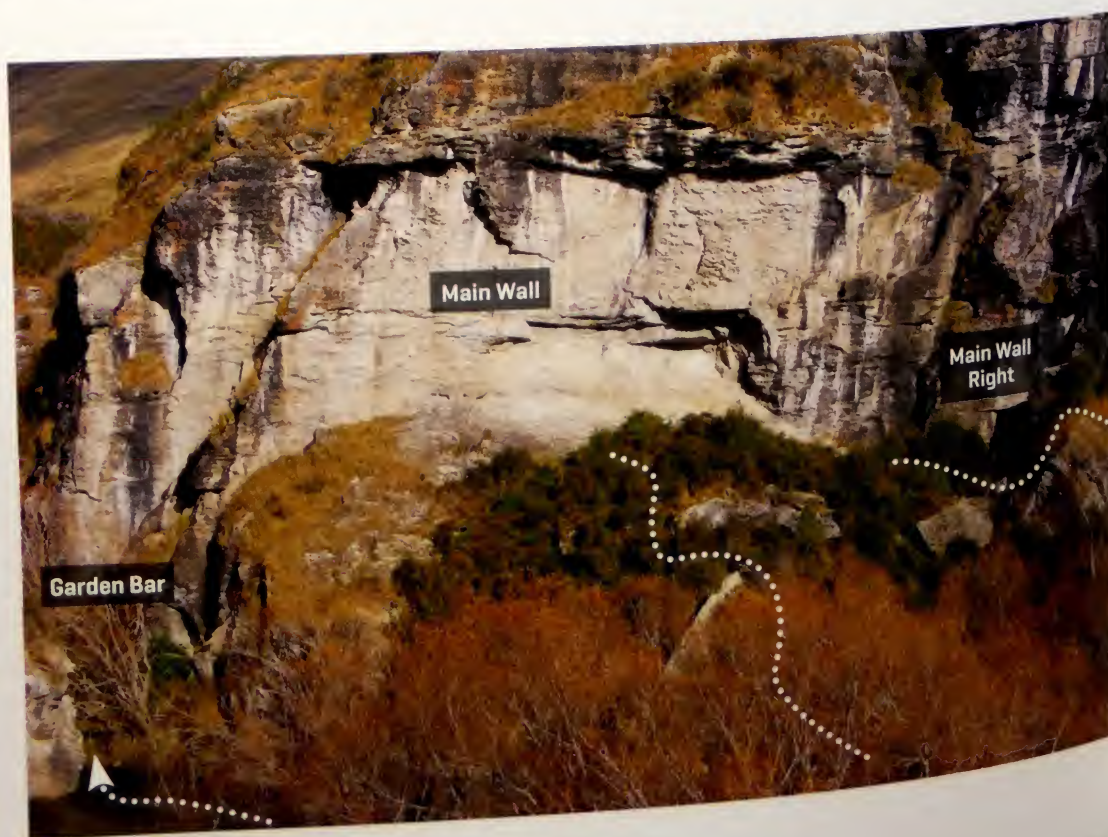


The Motatapu is west of Hospital Flat and the Diamond Lake Conservation Areas, about 900m past the Main Cliff (Hospital Flat) parking area. Refer to page 52 for an overview map.

Enjoy the resource but please respect the rules.

Climbing in the Motatapu valley depends on keeping good relationships with landowners and following these simple rules of conduct:

- Always use the toilets located at Main Cliff, Riverside and Roadside Attraction.
- No camping and no fires are allowed in this area, sorry.
- Protect the river from the invasive algae Didymo



RIVERSIDE

Riverside is an extremely popular spot, with a wide selection of grades and climbing styles on mostly excellent rock. Note that although the crag is approached from the right, the routes on each wall are described left to right. Please use the toilet at the parking area.



Approach time: 1–10 min

Access: Just past the bridge over the Motatapu River, turn into a small gravel quarry and drive up the hill to a grassy field overlooking the river. The Beginners Slab is just to the right on the top tier. Access tracks to the mid section and Main Wall start on the lower tier near river level.


BEGINNERS SLAB

The first routes, above the picnic table.


1 Zoftig 10m 12

 The arête at the left end of the wall. Avoid at all costs:  the hangers were removed due to the imminent collapse of the flake. Still possible at your own risk on natural pro, but you'd be better off alpine climbing.
Glen Einam


2 Super Size Me 10m 15

 Cruise the jugs until the wall steepens and holds diminish. Jerry Murray-Orr, 2005


3 Progressive Leadership 8m 14 ★

 An easy start, then head right at the bulge and cruise your way to the chains. A good beginner lead.
Luke Faed, 2012


4 Right Ascension 10m 14 ★

 Up the slab into a pleasant hand crack.
Glen Einam


5 Generation X 10m 16 ★

 An easy start, a delicate slab, and then a steep wall.
Simon Middlemass


6 Occupational Therapy 10m 14

 Slab and diagonal crack leading to a finish on steep jugs. Glen Einam


7 Dog Leg 10m 12

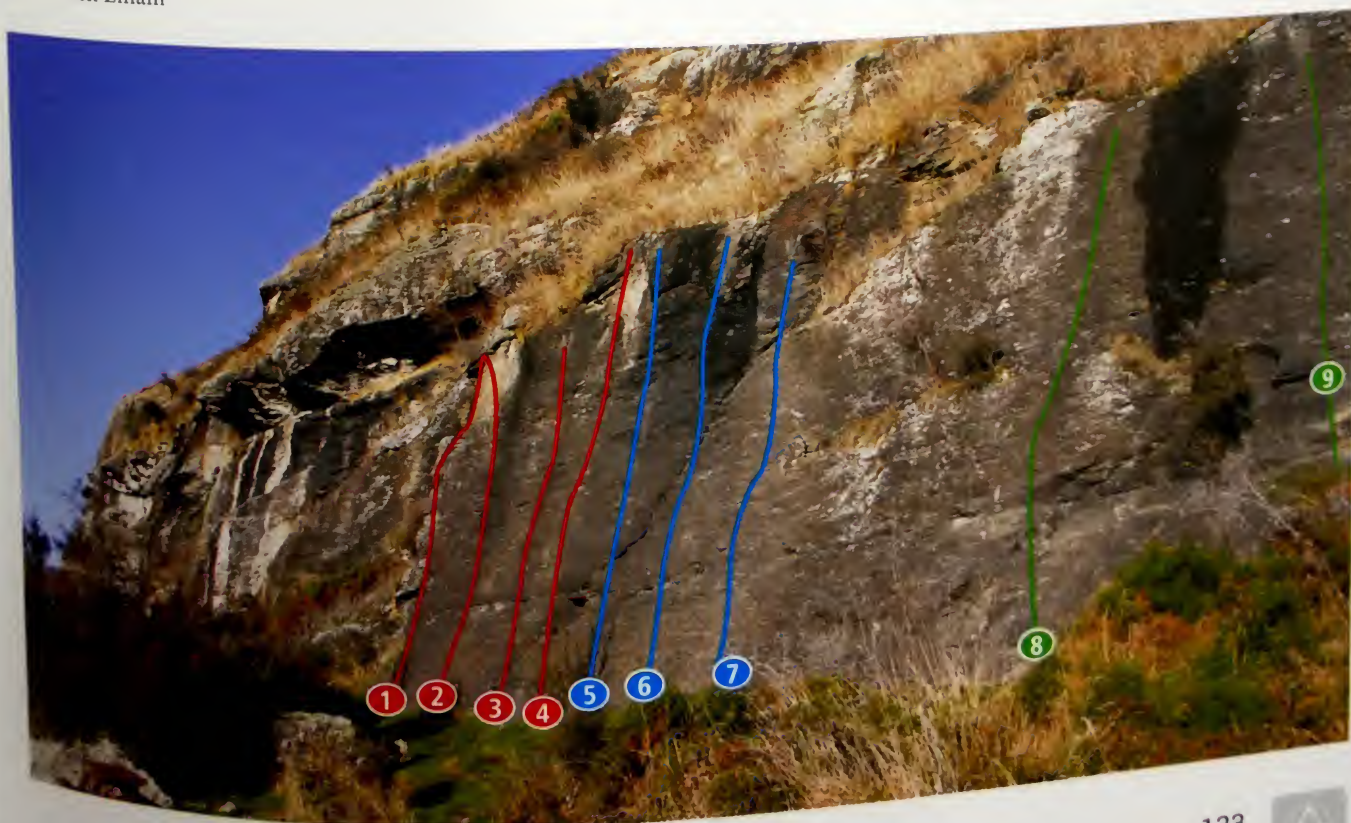
 Easy climbing up steps and corner to ledge.

8 Infinite Inveigling 10m 16 ★

 Relatively tricky start to sustained face climbing.
Glen Einam

9 The Valsalva Manoeuvre 10m 16

 Right most route, short steep start followed by easier climbing.
Glen Einam



STREAKED WALL

Approximately 30m up and left from Beginners Slab.

1 Cryptology 10m 19 ★

- 3 Left of the white streak. Thin holds, then mantle the ledge below the big roof.

Jerry Murray-Orr, 2004

2 Grandma Funk 10m 16 ★

- 3 Just right of the white streak. Short but sweet and shakin' that ass.

Jerry Murray-Orr, 2004

KERFUFFLE WALL

Access these routes from the bottom terrace, after climbing the steep track to a nice flat platform.

1 The Incredible Present 18m 15

- 5 The left-most route, starting at top of hand line.

Bryan Moore

2 Get Kerfuffled 20m 17 ★

- 5 And you probably will. Take the left side of the face and arête, with a sporty finish.

Sarah Adcock

3 Te Whanau 20m 18 ★

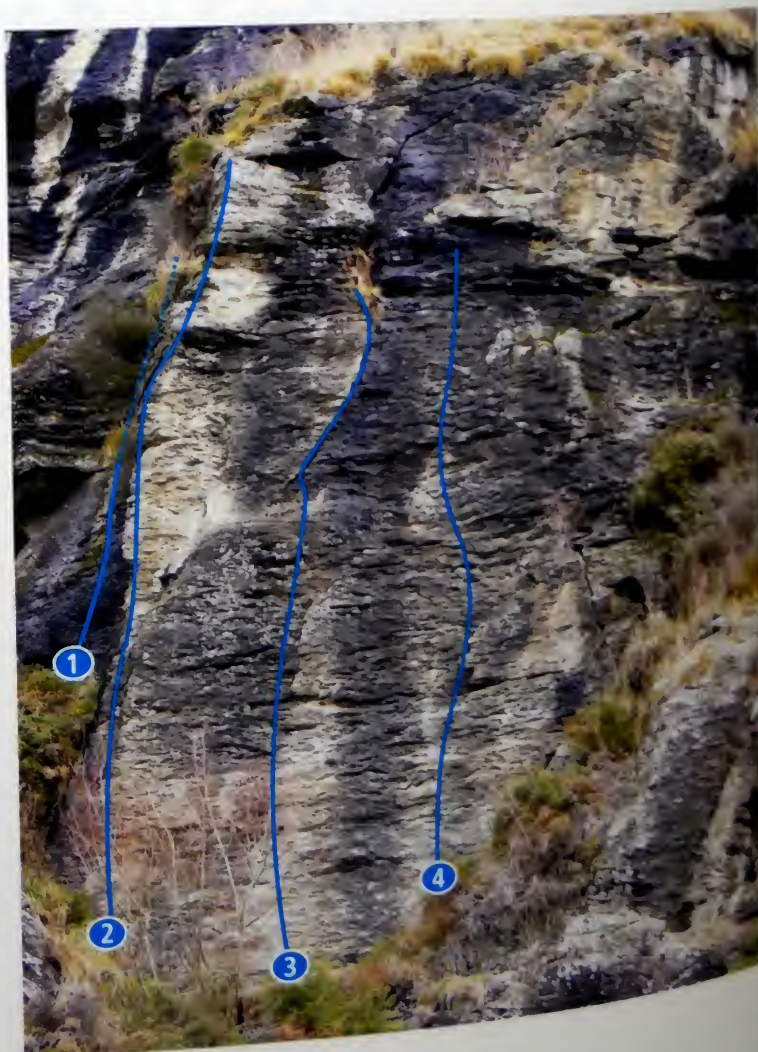
- 5 A bouldery start leads to easier but pumpy climbing.

Davie Robinson

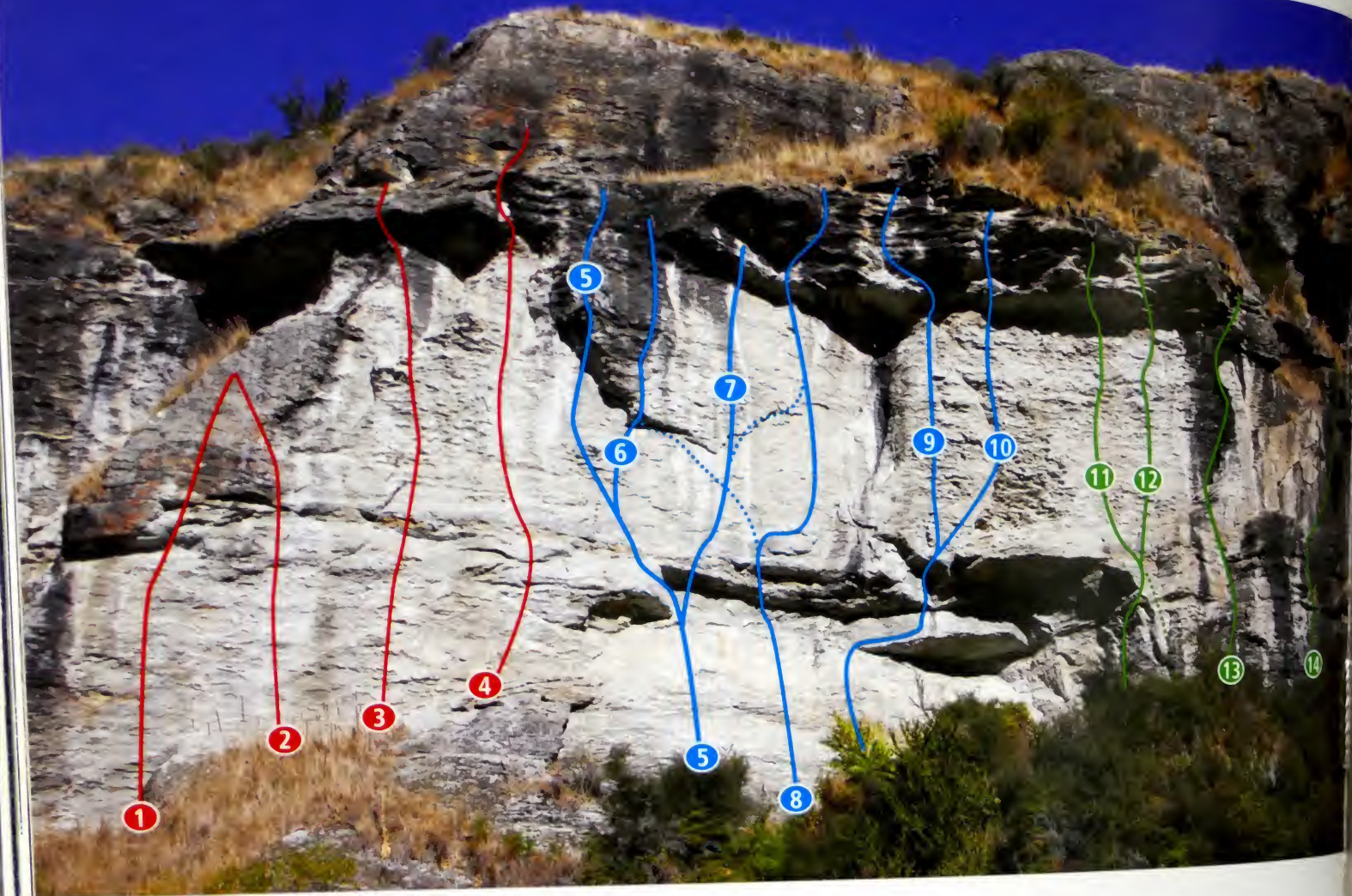
4 Terrain Spotting 20m 17 ★

- 5 Straight up on good moves with big holds.

Sarah Adcock



📷 Stefan Sporli poised to strike on *Zoot Alors* (24) Main Wall, Riverside.
ROUTE 6, PAGE 136,



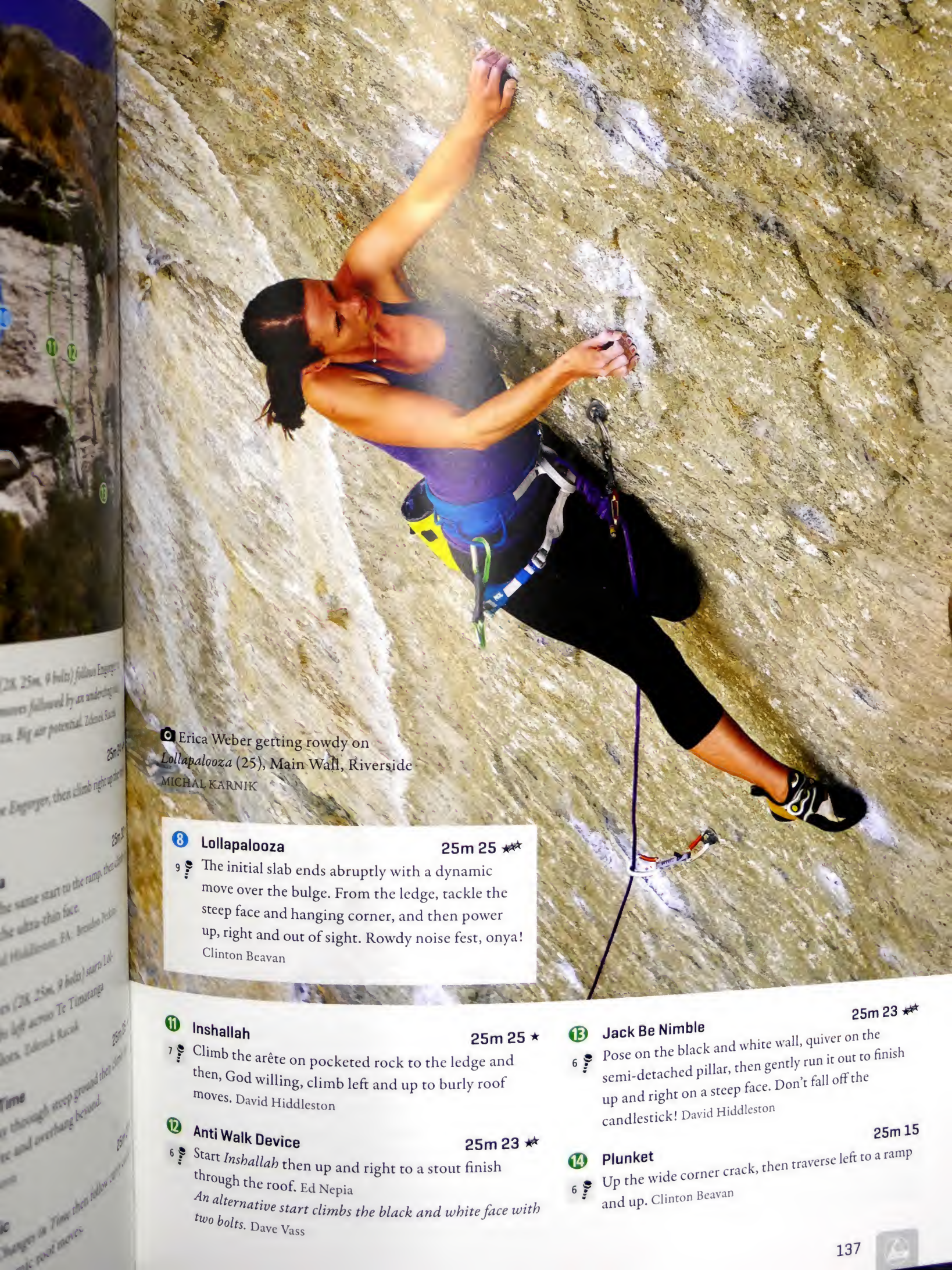
MAIN WALL

The main event, and worth arriving for.
Routes are described left to right.

- 1 Microcosmos** 14m 25 ★
4 Starting off the boulder, climb the white face through horizontal overlaps. Dave Vass
- 2 Lightning Head** 14m 24 ★
4 Face climbing on white rock to a hard crux, then hang a left to the anchor. Jon Sedon
- 3 Honey I Blew Up the Atoll** 19m 22 ★
6 Big holds get you started on the white face, and then continue on pockets to a puzzling roof. If you stop at lower anchor just below roof it's 21 and two stars. Simon Middlemass
- 4 Hasta Luego** 19m 24 ★
9 From the rock pile, climb a white face and through a small rooflet. A climb so cunning you could pin a tail on it and call it a weasel. Hugh Barnard
- 5 The Engorger** 25m 24 ★★
7 Massive! Climb over the bulge to a ramp leading to pockets, then power left up the overhanging corner. Ed Nepia

A link up Te Looza (28, 25m, 9 bolts) follows Engorger to the ramp, then thin moves followed by an undercling/side pull into Lollapalooza. Big air potential. Zdenek Racuk

- 6 Zoot Alors** 25m 24 ★★
7 Start as for *The Engorger*, then climb right up the steep face. Ed Nepia
- 7 Te Timatanga** 25m 30 ★
7 Once again, the same start to the ramp, then climb up and right on the ultra-thin face. Equipper: David Hiddleston. FA: Brendon Perkins
- A link up Lolla Alors (28, 25m, 9 bolts) starts Lollapalooza but climbs left across Te Timatanga to finish up Zoot Alors. Zdenek Racuk*
- 9 Changes In Time** 25m 25 ★
10 Find your way through steep ground then climb the pocketed arête and overhang beyond. David Hiddleston
- 10 Moana Magic** 25m 27 ★
10 Start as for *Changes in Time* then follow curvy crack to feisty and dynamic roof moves. David Hiddleston



Erica Weber getting rowdy on
Lollapalooza (25), Main Wall, Riverside
MICHAL KARNIK

8 Lollapalooza 25m 25 ★★

- 9 The initial slab ends abruptly with a dynamic move over the bulge. From the ledge, tackle the steep face and hanging corner, and then power up, right and out of sight. Rowdy noise fest, onya! Clinton Beavan

11 Inshallah 25m 25 ★

- 7 Climb the arête on pocketed rock to the ledge and then, God willing, climb left and up to burly roof moves. David Hiddleston

12 Anti Walk Device 25m 23 ★

- 6 Start *Inshallah* then up and right to a stout finish through the roof. Ed Nepia
An alternative start climbs the black and white face with two bolts. Dave Vass

13 Jack Be Nimble 25m 23 ★★

- 6 Pose on the black and white wall, quiver on the semi-detached pillar, then gently run it out to finish up and right on a steep face. Don't fall off the candlestick! David Hiddleston

14 Plunket 25m 15

- 6 Up the wide corner crack, then traverse left to a ramp and up. Clinton Beavan



On the right hand side of the Main Wall...

15 You Crack Me Up 25m 20 *

3 Follow a crack to the overlap, then easier climbing up the ramp and out left to the anchor.

Allan Uren

16 Just Go Nuts 20m 18

3 A direct start to *You Crack Me Up*: bridging then up ledges to the overlap.

Brendon Swan, Jerry Murray-Orr, 2003

17 Crikey Love! Better Get the Kids Inside I Think I'm Falling Off 15m 23 *

4 From the *You Crack Me Up* anchor, face climb up and right to a sporty finish.

Clinton Beavan, Ed Nepia

18 Cookie Time 40m 24 *

9 Start *You Crack Me Up* or *Just Go Nuts*, but avoid the anchor by climbing a thin seam and white face to finish right of the small roof. Take medium wires, long slings and plenty of courage.

David Hiddleston

19 Great for the Missus 25m 19 *

12 P1: (14) An excellent wander up the slab and through a steep juggy section to the atmospheric belay.

P2: (19) A thin, sequential crack and flake.

David Hiddleston, Clinton Beavan

GARDEN BAR

A peaceful and shady spot next to the river, the Garden Bar lives up to its name with a buffet selection of routes on mostly excellent rock.

Approach time: 10 min

Access: Just past the bridge crossing over the Motatapu River, turn into the small gravel quarry and drive up the hill to a grassy field overlooking the river. Walk 100m downhill and then up alongside the river to a beach, passing beneath Riverside's Main Wall. Wade upstream around short cliffs. It's also possible to abseil in from the far left end of Riverside's Main Wall. This takes you down the line of *Yang*. Take care not to drop rocks on climbers below!

1 Glen's 25m 15

8 Climbs a mossy slab to the corner, then vanishes over a bulge. The reward for your efforts is an expansive view upvalley. Glen Einam (retro-cleaned by Jerry Murray-Orr and Brendon Swan)

2 Jug of Speights 25m 17

8 Sequential and cruxy slab climbing, firstly on small holds and then bigger features. Chipped. Phil Marsh

3 Just Add Sausages 15m 25 ★

5 Climb the blunt arête. Tenuous and technical. Dave Vass

4 Who the Fuck is Nick Cradock? 25m 23 ★

8 If you have to ask, you can't afford him. Climb up to the ramp/corner system, then a few devious and sequential moves lurk on well-featured orange and black rock. Davie Robinson

5 The Oatmeal Savage 15m 22 ★

5 Start *Who The Fuck?* but locate a faint crack heading up and left through the overlap. Davie Robinson

6 Twister 25m 20 ★

8 Start *Who The Fuck?* but continue up the ramp to short steep wall, climbing to a break before turning the steep arête to the anchor. Glen Einam, Matt Squires

7 Twisted 10m 26

4 From *Twister*, climb the short, steep, black face on thin edges. Equipper: Matt Squires. FA: Ed Nepia



8 Twisting by the Pool 30m 14

9 Start *Who The Fuck?* And continue to top of the right-angling ramp and corner system. Jerry Murray-Orr, 2004

9 Yang 15m 17

4 Start off the block then climb up the face and right side of the groove on holds that tend to stay dirty. Glen Einam

10 Yin 15m 22 ★

4 Starts in a black groove. Short, pumpy and seldom climbed. Matt Squires, Glen Einam

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION

What's the attraction? An all-season crag with a wide range of grades and climbing styles. Ease of access makes it particularly popular with families and school groups. On the car park side of the road, a scenic toilet is located under willow trees overlooking the river. No camping and no fires are allowed.

Approach time: <5 min

Access: About 200m northwest of the Motatapu bridge, find the obvious roadside walls opposite a car park. Cross the stile to access crags just left and to the right.

These two climbs are 50m up and left of the main crag, and left of the prominent arête.

1 Slide It In 15m 17

- 1 Climbing icon
1 Climb a crack.
Rob Alcorn

2 Delight 15m 19

- 9 Climbing icon
9 A good black face and then finish through the small roof. Ian Nicholson

1 Wall Street 15m 18 ★

- 5 Climbing icon
5 The first climb on the crag proper, which required a mega clean-a-thon. A good slab climb, despite appearances.
Clinton Beavan

2 Judge's Wine 15m 16 ★

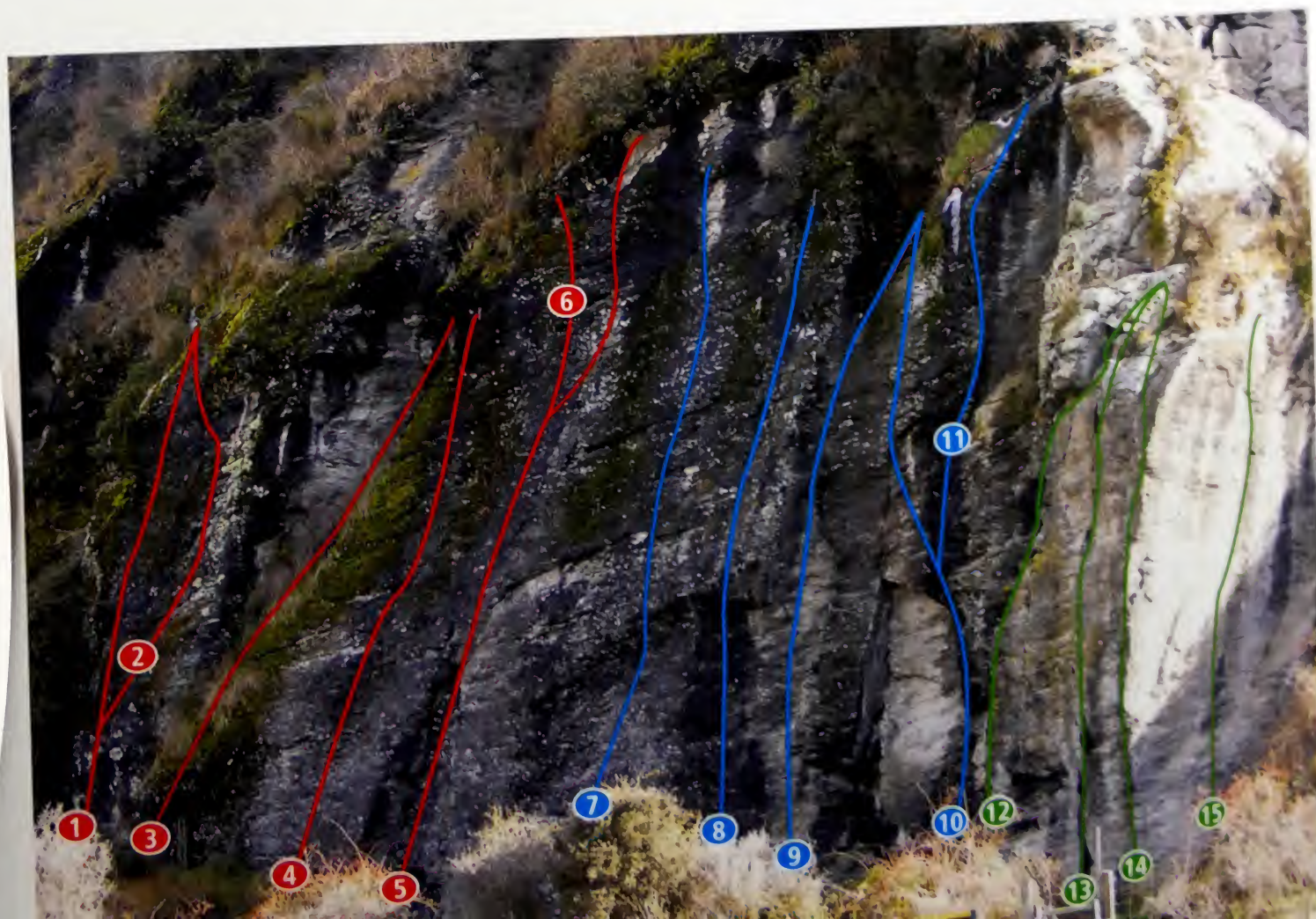
- Climbing icon
Climbed in the dark ages using pile jackets, beards, hexes and other dark arts.
Paul Scaife, Dave McNulty

3 Spider Pig 20m 12

- 7 Climbing icon
7 Up the corner.
Bryan Moore

4 Elvis Trashes His Car 15m 15 ★

- 5 Climbing icon
5 A slab, then a bulge, and up ledges.
Watch out for the school bus.
Steve Henry, Maree Horlor



5 Strawberry 20m 15 ★

- 5 Start below a corner crack; climb through the overlap and on to the slab.
Paul Aubrey

6 Self Directed Learning Tool 20m 17

- 3 Climb *Strawberry* to above the overlap and then take the left crack.
Russell Braddock, 2003

7 Aratuatahi 20m 16 ★

- 5 First path. The tough start is worth it. Now diagonal up through the overlap.
Clinton Beavan

8 Practising Arms 20m 20

- 2 The bouldery start leads to a bulging arête and thin crack.
Lydia Bradey

9 Aspiring Arseholes 15m 16 ★

- One of the first routes climbed in the valley. The corner crack on natural pro.
Bryon Dyson

10 Slightly English 15m 18 ★

- 4 Hanging corner to pockets through an overlap. A climb with built in rhythm.
Nick Cradock

11 Nasal Excavations 20m 18 ★

- 4 This hanging corner gets you on an angling ramp, then up the steep pillar.
Dave Packman

12 The Ramp 15m 18

- 3 The crack angles up and right. Pumpy and giggly.
Nick Cradock

13 Papal's Nasal 15m 18 ★

- 3 Steep crack, then angle out right.
Nick Cradock

14 Arêtenaphobia 15m 20 ★★

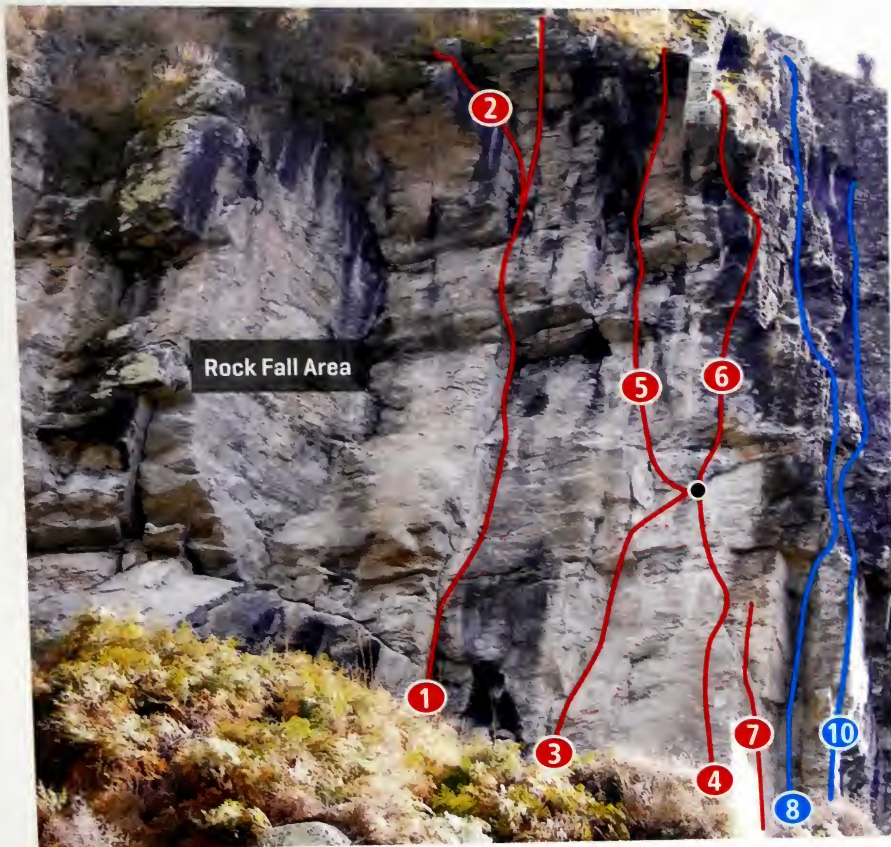
- 3 The arête is the crag classic.
Paul Aubrey

15 Flying Guts 15m 26

- 3 A steep face climb with a tricky move (or two).
Jeremy Strang

📷 Scott Standen peels off *Onion* (29).
Roadside Attraction. ROUTE 7, PAGE 144.
JON SEDON





The right-hand portion of the crag is about 35m past the stile. The right-facing wall below the capping roof was the scene of a rockfall in 2014. With this, two routes were lost: *Myopic Voyuer* (19) and *Taking the Mickey* (25).

1 Adventures of Gonzo 20m 26

- 5 Warm up on the bulges in the right-facing corner. You'll need to be ready for the gnarly overlap and then powerful moves across the big roof.

Equipppers: Gordon and Mark. FA: David Hiddleston

2 Mr Cling 20m 23

- 5 Start *Adventures of Gonzo* but exit left under roof to a single-bolt anchor.

3 I Need a Pie 15m 21 ★

- 5 You might very well think so after this. After the overhanging corner, climb right to a ramp and overlap. Allan Uren

4 Up Your Scud 15m 23 ★

- 6 Climb the left side of the prow on thin crimps before angling up and right. Guy Cotter

5 Autumnal 15m 19 ★

- 2 From the *Up Your Scud* anchor, go left and through overlaps into a hair-raising slot and an exposed exit. Best combined with *I Need A Pie* as single pitch. Note: it's a 25m abseil back to the ground. Rachel Brown, Clinton Beavan

6 Free Barry 15m 23 ★★

- 6 Barry deserves it. From the *Up Your Scud* anchor, go right and through overlaps into the overhanging slot. Here, big holds ease

the drama. Best combined with *Up Your Scud* as a single pitch. Note: 25m abseil to the ground. Ed Nepia

7 Onion 15m 29 ★

- 4 The quintessential thin Wanaka face test piece. Equipper: Roland Foster. FA: Ivan Vostinar

8 Shortcut to Exposure 45m 17 ★★

- 12 Begin in the chimney, then move right and up the wall. At least one NZMGA guide has been rescued from the crux by amused locals. Note that it's a 30m abseil to the ground. Paul Aubrey, Allan Uren

9 Natural 15m 15

- A thin, right-angling crack. Chris Jillett

10 Nasal Discharge 20m 24

- 6 An overhanging arête feature. Hugh Barnard

11 Crumble 20m 28

- 5 Start *Nasal Discharge* then climb the steep face through a demanding sequence of pockets to finish on *Nasal Ecstasy*.

Chris Plant

12 Nasal Ecstasy 20m 20 ★

- 6 The mighty layback corner crack angles way out left. Allan Uren

13 What's My Mission Now? 20m 25 ★

- 5 The thoughtlessness of youth. (Who'll bolt my next route for me?) Start *Nasal Ecstasy* then climb the overlap and face. Colin Pohl

14 Roadside Rage 15m 14

- 3 After the short corner, either hang a left to the start of *Nasal Ecstasy* or cruise up to the *Everybody Needs A Thneed* anchor.

15 Everybody Needs a Thneed 15m 15

- Yeah right. Corner crack. Allan Uren

16 Neil Diamond Loves Me 20m 23 ★

- 6 Gain the *Everybody Needs A Thneed* anchors, get on the pedestal, and launch way, way out left on gorilla grips before climbing back right to the anchor. Equipper: Dave Ash. FA: David Hiddleston

Everything but Formalities
Again from the pedestal and pack corner. Super. Allan Uren

Hopeless Romance
Up and left onto small cabbage tree. Guy Cotter

Ring The Gack
Pull finger. A tec face. Dave Vass



17 Everything but the Formalities 15m 22 ★★

- 6 Again from the *Thneed* belay, get on the pedestal and paddle up the shallow corner. Super.
Allan Uren

18 Hopeless Romantic 20m 24 ★

- 6 Up and left onto the corner, bypassing a small cabbage tree en route.
Guy Cotter

19 Ring The Gack 15m 25 ★

- 6 Pull finger. A techno blinder on the steep face.
Dave Vass

Down at ground level near the fence and road are found the following:

20 Soggy Biscuit 10m 17

- 2 The short wall with nice layaways.
Clinton Beavan

21 Ski Bum's Revenge 10m 22

- 3 The powder was trashed. A steep face and arête. Glen Einam

22 Academia Nuts 10m 23

- 3 A fierce but intellectual piece of work up a faint crack. Allan Uren

23 Be My Slave 10m 18

- 2 Hopeful. The rightmost route, a short climb on a boulder. Jim Spencer